AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior claim versions and listings.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of selecting a program which meets a user's taste from broadcast programs and recording the selected program in an automatic broadcast recording apparatus in a system having a server and the automatic broadcast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

at said server:

disclosing timer recording pattern information for recording broadcast programs recommended by ~~an~~ at least one opinion leader ~~who serves to recommend the programs to be appreciated to the user~~;

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

acquiring said timer recording pattern information of one of the opinion leaders selected by said user;

setting timer recording for ~~a~~ one of the broadcast programs ~~determined by~~ using said timer recording pattern information; and

receiving the program set for timer recording and recording the received program.

2. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein said broadcast programs include video data and audio data.

3. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein said broadcast programs include audio data.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

acquiring program information including identification codes of the broadcast

programs and broadcasting dates and times thereof at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus;

wherein said timer recording pattern information includes identification codes of the programs recommended by ~~said~~ the opinion leader selected by the user; and

wherein said step of setting timer recording ~~for a program determined by said timer recording pattern information at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus~~ includes the step of selecting the program from said program information.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1, wherein said timer recording pattern information includes start-of-program times and end-of-program times of the programs recommended by the opinion leader selected by the user; and

wherein said step of setting timer recording ~~for a program determined by said timer recording pattern information at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus~~ includes the step of selecting the program from the start-of-program time and end-of-program time thereof.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

recording a playback history including information of whether the recorded program is played back or not; and

selecting ~~an~~ the opinion leader selected by the user ~~who meets the user's taste~~ based on said playback history.

7. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

recording a timer recording history including information of programs set for

timer recording; and

selecting an opinion leader who meets the user's taste based on said timer recording history.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

recording a recording history including information of recorded programs; and

selecting an opinion leader who meets the user's taste based on said recording history.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

confirming the broadcasting date and time of a program to be recorded from said program information when the program information is acquired, and correcting the broadcasting date and time if the broadcasting date and time have been changed.

10. (Original) A method of accumulating programs which meet a user's taste in a system having a server and automatic broadcast recording apparatus by recording broadcast programs in the automatic broadcast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

sending information of playback statuses of recorded programs to said server;

at said server:

collecting said information of each program sent from each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus of respective users, and calculating a taste level indicative of how much each program meets the user's taste;

sending said taste level to each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus

of respective users; and

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

deleting recorded programs successively from programs of lower taste levels.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

13. (Original) A method of accumulating programs which meet a user's taste by recording broadcast programs in a system having a server and automatic broadcast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

sending information of playback statuses of recorded programs to said server;

at said server:

collecting said information of each program sent from each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus of respective users, and calculating a taste level indicative of how much each program meets the user's taste;

sending said taste level to each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus of respective users;

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

if a program recorded in the past needs to be deleted in order to record a new program, comparing a predetermined taste level given to said new program with the taste level of the program recorded in the past;

if there is a program whose taste level is lower than said new program among

programs recorded in the past, deleting the program whose taste level is lower than said new program, and recording the new program; and

if there is no program whose taste level is lower than said new program among programs recorded in the past, stopping recording said new program.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

16. (Original) A method of accumulating programs which meet a user's taste in a system having a server and automatic broadcast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

sending information of playback statuses of recorded programs to said server;

at said server:

collecting said information of each program sent from each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus of respective users in each of groups of users having similar appreciating histories, and calculating, in each of said groups, a taste level indicative of how much each program meets the user's taste;

sending said taste level to each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus of the users belonging to the respective groups; and

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

deleting recorded programs successively from programs of lower taste levels.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

19. (Original) A method of accumulating programs which meet a user's taste in a system having a server and automatic broadcast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

sending information of playback statuses of recorded programs to said server;

at said server:

collecting said information of each program sent from each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus of respective users in each of groups of users having similar appreciating histories, and calculating, in each of said groups, a taste level indicative of how much each program meets the user's taste;

sending said taste level to each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus of the users belonging to the respective groups; and

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

if a program recorded in the past needs to be deleted in order to record a new program, comparing a predetermined taste level given to said new program with the taste level of the program recorded in the past;

if there is a program whose taste level is lower than said new program among programs recorded in the past, deleting the program whose taste level is lower than said new program, and recording the new program; and

if there is no program whose taste level is lower than said new program among programs recorded in the past, stopping recording said new program.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein said information includes information

of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

22. (Original) A method of selecting a program which meets a user's taste from broadcast programs and recording the selected program in automatic broadcast recording apparatus in a system having a server and the automatic broadcast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

at said server:

disclosing timer recording pattern information for recording programs selected according to respective predetermined selecting standards from the broadcast programs;

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

acquiring said timer recording pattern information selected by said user;

setting timer recording for a program determined by said timer recording pattern information; and

receiving the program set for timer recording and recording the received program.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically selecting and recording a program which meets a user's taste from broadcast programs, comprising:

information acquiring means for acquiring timer recording pattern information for recording broadcast programs recommended by ~~an~~ at least one opinion leader ~~who is selected by the user and serves to recommend the programs to be appreciated to the user~~;

timer recording means for setting timer recording for ~~a~~ one of the broadcast programs ~~determined by~~ using said timer recording pattern information;

receiving means for receiving the program set for timer recording; and

recording and playing means for recording the program.

24. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said broadcast programs include video data and audio data.

25. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said broadcast programs include audio data.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said timer recording pattern information includes identification codes of the programs recommended by said opinion leader selected by the user, said information acquiring means acquires program information including identification codes of the broadcast programs and broadcasting dates and times thereof, and said timer recording means selects the program determined by said timer recording pattern information from said program information and sets timer recording for the selected program.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said timer recording pattern information includes start-of-program times and end-of-program times of the programs recommended by the opinion leader selected by the user, and said timer recording means sets timer recording for the program determined by said timer recording pattern information according to the start-of-program time and end-of-program time thereof.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said recording and playing means records a playback history including information of whether the recorded program is played back or not, and selects an the opinion leader who meets the user's taste based on said playback history.

29. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said timer recording means records a timer recording history including information of programs set for timer recording, and selects an

opinion leader who meets the user's taste based on said timer recording history.

30. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said recording and playing means records a recording history including information of recorded programs, and selects an opinion leader who meets the user's taste based on said recording history.

31. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said timer recording means confirms the broadcasting date and time of a program to be recorded from said program information when the program information is acquired by said information acquiring means, and corrects the broadcasting date and time if the broadcasting date and time has been changed.

32. (Original) An apparatus for accumulating programs which meet a user's taste by recording broadcast programs, comprising:

recording and reproducing means for sending information of playback statuses of recorded programs to a server, which calculates a taste level indicative of how much each program meets the user's taste, and deleting recorded programs successively from programs of lower taste levels sent from said server, when recorded programs are to be deleted; and

information acquiring means for receiving said taste level from said server which has collected said information of each program sent from each of respective users.

33. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

34. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

35. (Original) An apparatus for accumulating programs which meet a user's taste by recording broadcast programs, comprising:

recording and playing means for sending information of playback statuses of

recorded programs to a server, which calculates a taste level indicative of how much each

program meets the user's taste, and, if a program recorded in the past needs to be deleted in order

to record a new program, comparing a predetermined taste level given to said new program with

the taste level of the program recorded in the past, and if there is a program whose taste level is

lower than said new program among programs recorded in the past, deleting the program whose

taste level is lower than said new program, and recording the new program, and if there is no

program whose taste level is lower than said new program among programs recorded in the past,

stopping recording said new program; and

    information acquiring means for receiving said taste level from said server which

has collected said information of each program sent from each of respective users.

36. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said information includes

information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

37. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said information includes

information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selecting a program which meets a user's taste from

broadcast programs, comprising:

    information acquiring means for acquiring timer recording pattern information

selected by the user from among timer recording pattern information disclosed at a server, said

timer recording pattern information for recording programs selected at the server according to

respective predetermined selecting criteria;

    timer recording means for setting timer recording for a program determined by

said timer recording pattern information;

    receiving means for receiving the program set for timer recording; and

recording means for recording the received program.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer program for enabling a computer to perform a process of providing a user with information to select a broadcast program which meets the user's taste, comprising:

an instruction set for disclosing a web page through a communication network;

an instruction set for storing, in a memory, timer recording pattern information for recording the broadcast programs recommended by an at least one opinion leader who serves to recommend the programs to be appreciated to the user; and

an instruction set for displaying the timer recording pattern information on said web page for each opinion leader.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer program according to claim 39, wherein said timer recording pattern information includes identification codes of the broadcast programs recommended by said opinion leader.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer program according to claim 39, wherein said timer recording pattern information includes start-of-program times and end-of-program times of the broadcast programs recommended by the opinion leader.

42. (Original) A computer program for enabling a computer to perform a process of providing a user with information to select a program which meets the user's taste, comprising:

an instruction set for receiving information of playback statuses of recorded programs from a plurality of users;

an instruction set for collecting said information of each program sent from each of said users, and calculating a taste level indicative of how much each program meets the user's taste; and

an instruction set for sending said taste level to each of said users.

43. (Original) A computer program according to claim 42, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

44. (Original) A computer program according to claim 42, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

45. (Original) A computer program for enabling a computer to perform a process of providing a user with information to select a program which meets the user's taste, comprising:

an instruction set for receiving information of playback statuses of recorded programs from each user;

an instruction set for collecting said information of each program sent from each user in each of groups of users having similar appreciating histories, and calculating, in each of said groups, a taste level indicative of how much each program meets the user's taste; and

an instruction set for sending said taste level to each of the users belonging to the respective groups in said server.

46. (Original) A computer program according to claim 45, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

47. (Original) A computer program according to claim 45, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

48. (Currently Amended) A computer program for enabling a computer to perform a process of providing a user with information to select a program which meets the user's taste, comprising:

an instruction set for disclosing a web page through a communication network;

an instruction set for storing, in a memory, timer recording pattern information disclosed at a server, said timer recording pattern information for the user to record programs selected at the server according to respective predetermined selecting standards; and

an instruction set for displaying each said timer recording pattern information on said web page.